

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CEREAL HARVEST FORECAST, 1956-57

Reports on their harvest prospects have been received from 3,213 farmers representing 40% of the total area under crop, and the estimated acreages and yields set forth in this Bulletin are based on these reports. The following summary compares the 1956-57 estimate with the actual results for 1955-56 and the mean of the 10 years ended 1955-56:-

| | | | Estimated 1956-57 | Actual 1955-56 | Mean 10 years to 1955-56 |
|------------------|----------|---------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Wheat - | Area | Acres | 1,455,000 | 1,609,029 | 1,868,436 |
| | Yield | Bushels | 29,500,000 | 28,891,524 | 29,783,669 |
| | Average | | | | |
| | Per Acre | Bushels | 20.27 | 17.96 | 15.94 |
| Barley - | Area | Acres | 1,220,000 | 1,041,806 | 817,313 |
| | Yield | Bushels | 32,500,000 | 24,597,979 | 17,953,647 |
| | Average | | | | |
| | per acre | Bushels | 26.64 | 23.61 | 21.97 |
| Oats - | Area | Acres | 490,000 | 425,026 | 318,209 |
| | Yield | Bushels | 8,100,000 | 7,280,340 | 4,599,593 |
| | Average | | | | |
| | Per Acre | Bushels | 16.53 | 17.13 | 14.45 |
| Rain, April-Nov. | | Inches | 18.28 | 15.77 | 12.97 |

COMMENTS.

Seasonal Conditions:- The average rainfall over the agricultural areas for the crop growing period April-November was 18.28 inches compared with the mean of 12.43 inches for the previous 51 years. This was the highest fall recorded for the period during the last 52 years, the fall in every month except November being well above the mean. An average wheat yield of 20.27 bushels per acre is expected from this season's rainfall of 18.28 inches, compared with 16.46 bushels from the previous highest fall of 17.97 inches in 1916. The maximum wheat yield of 21.97 bushels was obtained from 15.19 inches in 1952. It is very pleasing to note that the wheat yield per acre for each of the last 11 seasons has exceeded the mean yield of 11.45 bushels for the 51 seasons, although in 5 of those 11 seasons the rainfall was below the mean. For the 11 seasons an average wheat yield of 16.03 bushels has been obtained from an average rainfall of 13.45 inches whereas during the previous 41 seasons an average wheat yield of only 10.66 bushels was obtained from an average rainfall of 12.30 inches. Although the average rainfall for the past 11 seasons is only 9% above that of the previous 41, the average wheat yield has increased by 50%.

The present survey indicates that only 1,505,000 acres of wheat were sown for all purposes compared with the 1,560,000 acres that farmers reported last autumn that they intended to sow, barley 1,260,000 acres compared with 1,260,000 and oats 890,000 acres compared with 1,015,000, a total of 3,655,000 acres now estimated compared with 3,835,000 acres intended. It is reported that the wet winter was the principal cause of the reduced sowings for wheat and oats.

Wheat: The estimated yield of 29,500,000 bushels slightly exceeds the actual yield of 28,891,524 bushels of the previous season and is slightly less than the mean of 29,783,669 bushels for the previous 10 seasons. The estimated average yield of 20.27 bushels per acre has been exceeded only by the 21.97 bushels recorded for 1952-53. For 1955-56 the average was 17.96 bushels and the previous 10 year mean 15.94. The area under wheat for grain had been 1,518,948 acres in 1946-47 and is estimated to be only 1,455,000 acres for 1956-57, the mean for the previous 10 seasons being 1,868,436. The estimated area for 1956-57 is the lowest since 1895-96.

Barley: The estimated acreage of barley for grain of 1,220,000 acres and yield of 32,500,000 bushels exceed the previous records of 1,121,744 acres and 28,491,293 bushels in 1953-54. The mean acreage for the previous 10 seasons

was only 817,313 and the mean yield only 17,953,647 bushels. The average yield per acre of 26.64 bushels has been exceeded only by 27.63 in 1952-53 and 27.32 in 1947-48. It compares with 23.61 bushels in 1955-56 and the 10 year mean of 21.97.

Oats: The estimated acreage and yield of oats also are records. The area of 490,000 acres exceeds the previous record of 472,545 acres in 1940-41 and the yield of 8,100,000 bushels exceeds the 7,280,340 bushels in 1955-56. For the previous 10 seasons the mean acreage was 318,209 and the mean yield was 4,599,593 bushels. The average yield per acre of 16.53 bushels is less than the 1955-56 average of 17.13 but exceeds the 10 year mean of 14.45.

Field Peas: The estimated yield of 630,000 bushels exceeds the previous record of 584,320 bushels in 1955-56, giving an average of 20.00 bushels from 31,500 acres. This is less than the 34,298 acres in 1955-56 and the 35,280 acres in 1954-55 but considerably exceeds previous years.

Hay: During recent years there have been decreased acreages for cereal hay but there have been increased acreages of meadow-hay and improved pastures. The estimated area of wheaten, barley and oaten hay for 1956-57 is 163,000 acres yielding 264,000 tons at an average of 1.62 tons per acre compared with 206,906 acres, 290,625 tons, average 1.40 tons in 1955-56.

General: The estimated combined yields of wheat, barley and oats total 70,100,000 bushels and exceeds the previous record of 66,486,973 bushels in 1952-53.

Seasons 1953-54 and 1955-56 had been the only ones in which the combined yields of barley and oats exceeded that of wheat. For 1956-57, it is estimated that the yield of barley itself exceeds that of wheat, with respective yields of 32,500,000 and 29,500,000.

The total estimated area of wheat, barley and oats for grain, hay and green fodder is estimated at 3,655,000 acres compared with 3,587,895 acres the previous season. The combined area has remained fairly consistent during the last 12 years. The maximum area was 5,293,862 acres in 1930-31 and the lowest in recent years was 2,538,225 in 1943-44.

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